

Rats are dangerous!
They can ruin your food,
destroy things in your home
and start electrical fires.
Rats and their fleas can
carry diseases.



Public Health



Seattle & King County

or reach us on our web site:
www.metrokc.gov/health/

206-205-4394

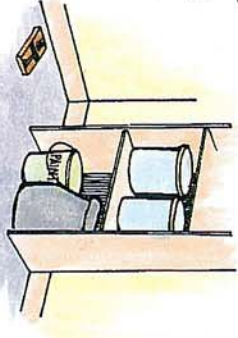
For information or to report
rat problems call:

POISONS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED for rat control, because children or other animals may eat it by mistake. Also, poisoned rats can die in hard to reach places, causing a very bad smell.



or animals who could get hurt from it.

from people, children, pets



• **PLACE TRAP**

near where you have found the droppings. Make sure the trap is safe



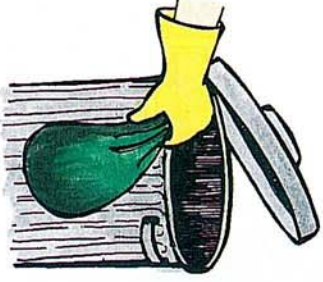
The best trap is the large, simple, cheap wooden "snap trap." They are sold in hardware stores.

To kill a rat, use a rat trap!

To use the trap:

• **BAIT IT** with pieces of apple, potato, raw bacon or with peanut butter spread on a cotton ball.

• **ATTACH** it firmly to the ground or solid place to keep the rat from dragging the trap away.



can. Injured or sick rats *must* be killed, then wrapped and put in the garbage can. Try not to touch the dead rat. Use gloves if possible.

DEAD RATS must first be wrapped in newspaper, or placed in a plastic bag before putting it in a tightly covered garbage

WASH YOUR HANDS WITH HOT WATER AND SOAP AFTER GETTING RID OF DEAD RATS! (even if you used gloves)



Where do rats live outside?

- Under wood piles or lumber that is not being used often
- Under bushes, vines and in tall grasses that are not trimmed or cut back
- Under rocks in the garden
- In cars, appliances and furniture that has been put outside and is no longer being used
- In and around trash and garbage that has been left on the ground
- In holes under buildings

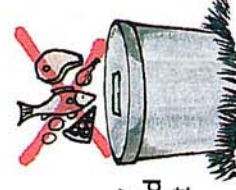


What foods bring rats into my yard and neighborhood?

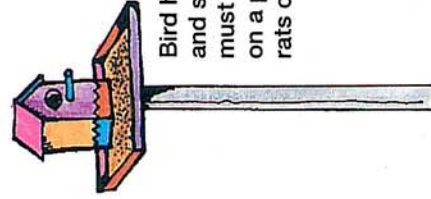
- Garbage that rats can get into, like garbage cans with loose lids, plastic or paper bags, and litter
- Food for pets and birds that has not been eaten. Birdseed on the ground, pet food in pet dishes, bread crumbs etc.
- Fruits and berries that have fallen to the ground
- Compost pile or worm bin that isn't taken care of the right way (do not put meat, fish, poultry, or dairy in the compost)



• Dog droppings



Use only approved compost bins



Bird houses and seed trays must be high on a pole that rats can't climb

Where do rats live inside the home?

- In the insulation of walls or ceilings
- Inside the crawl spaces
- Behind or under cupboards, counters, bathtubs and shower stalls
- Near hot water heaters and furnaces
- In basements, attics and wherever things are stored in boxes, paper or cloth

What do rats eat when they get inside the house?

- **THE SAME FOODS WE DO!**
- Foods, fats, oils that have been spilled and left on counters, floors, appliances and tables
- Grains, like cereal, oats, rice and vegetables like potatoes and carrots that are in cardboard boxes and plastic bags
- Pet food in boxes or bags
- Any garbage that is not in a can with a tight lid



Always keep your yard clear of trash and fallen fruit.

The only way to keep rats out of your house or yard is to take away their food, water and shelter.